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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Memorandum of Conversation

837

DATE: November 23, 1965

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SUBJECT: French Offer of Supersonic Aircraft to Jordan

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. Paul Carton, Counselor, Embassy of France
NEA/NE - Harrison M. Symmes
NEA/NE - Marshall W. Wiley

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Mr. Symmes said that he hoped Mr. Carton would make it clear to his Foreign Ministry that we are very appreciative of their cooperation on the question of supersonic aircraft sales to Jordan. We are not interested in selling U.S. supersonics to Jordan and we certainly do not want the Jordanians to take MIG aircraft which would seriously upset the stability of the area. We wish to make certain that the Quai understands that we are not working behind their backs with the British. The question of a joint HAWK-Lightning sale arose originally in connection with Saudi Arabia at which time the U.S. Government agreed to participate in a package offer of HAWKS and Lightnings to the SAG. At the same time, we agreed there would be no objection to a similar package offer to Jordan or Lebanon. As far as we know no one has offered HAWKS to the Jordanians. In any case, the whole question is somewhat academic as the Jordanians do not have the funds to purchase HAWKS, and we have no intention of providing a subsidy. We will be very happy if the Jordanians can meet their supersonic aircraft requirements by purchase from either France or the UK with the funds made available from the United Arab Command. The Jordanians may have to return to the UAC to request either the additional funds required for the British or French aircraft or the acquiescence of the UAC in the purchase of fewer aircraft.

Mr. Carton asked if the U.S. is selling anything to the SAG. Mr. Symmes provided a general outline of the five alternative proposals which have been put up to the SAG and said we are now awaiting a reply from the Saudis.

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